

— Capsule Summary

SM-57

St. Aloysius R. C. Church Cemetery

Leonardtown

Public

c. 1766-1996

From 1766-present (1996) the St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church Cemetery has served as a burial ground for St. Aloysius Parish in Leonardtown. The land for the church and cemetery was donated to St. Aloysius Parish by Ann Thompson in 1766. A frame church, no longer visible, was constructed soon after. The church remained active until 1847 when the congregation constructed a new house of worship in Leonardtown.

While remains of the church are no longer visible, the cemetery has served as the final resting place for many Catholic families and individuals from the area from the 1760s to the present. The cemetery includes headstones from the Wathen, Duke, Camalier, Simms, Fenwick, King, Spalding, Swales, Conner, Cooper, Young and several other local families. These headstones and family plots exhibit a significantly wide variety of iconography, craftsmanship, and materials. They range from finely shaped and finished stone to unmarked wooden crosses. This contrast in quality and age of the headstones encapsulates over 200 years of funerary practice in St. Mary's County.

SM-57, St. Aloysius R. C. Church Cemetery
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Rural Agrarian Intensification, A. D. 1680-1815
Historic Period Theme:	Religion Social/Cultural

Resource Type

Category:	Site
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Religious (Cemetery)
Known Design Source:	None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-57

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Aloysius R. C. Church Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Cemetery Road (.2 miles from Route 245) ☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Rev. Patrick A. O'Boyle (St. Matthews Cathedral)

street & number 1721 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Washington state and zip code D. C. 20036

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. None given at Tax Assessors liber

street & number folio

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title St. Aloysius R. C. Church Cemetery

date ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-57

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource count: 1

The St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Cemetery is located approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the intersection of Route 245 and Old Cemetery Road on Old Cemetery Road just outside the corporate limits of Leonardtown. The cemetery is located on a 4.62 acre tract that is situated on a low ridge that gently slopes to the east. The plot is surrounded on three sides by woods and on the other by a road. The grass in the cemetery is cut and there are several cedar as well as deciduous trees located within its boundaries. A dirt tract runs roughly north to south thereby bisecting the cemetery.

Most headstones are aligned on an east/west axis and exhibit Catholic iconography such as "IHS" or crosses as well as other symbols such as urns and willow trees. The stones are not necessarily grouped together in an orderly fashion. The headstones date from 1787 to the present with a majority of the visible headstones dating from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

The eighteenth century markers tend to be roughly cut stone with inscriptions on only one side--suggesting that these markers may have been laid flat rather than perpendicular to the ground. They usually contain the initials of the deceased, the year and/or month of death, and sometimes a prominent roughly shaped crucifix through the middle of the stone. Only three such stones were found during the site visit.

The cemetery is also distinguished by several family plots, a slightly raised table tomb, several military markers, as well as three unmarked wood crosses. The most extravagant family plot is that of Benedict Spalding dated 1854. This plot is surrounded by a cast iron fence that is decorated with torches, acorns, urns, crossed arrows, and other intricate but replicated details.

Military markers in the cemetery tend to date from the twentieth century. These polished markers are notably austere. They tend to contain a cross, the name of the deceased, the rank, unit, and conflict they were involved with, and finally their date of birth and death. The visible military markers only recognize veterans of World War I and World War II.

It should be noted that a great majority of the graves in this cemetery are probably not marked. Charlie Fenwick, a local historian, noted that during a recent burial within the cemetery old graves were uncovered--adding credence to the predominance of unmarked burials. He also noted that a significantly large slave cemetery was once located immediately to the west of the current cemetery and across the dirt road. These graves were usually marked with wooden crosses.

The site or foundation of the eighteenth century church could not be located during the site visit.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-57

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒A ☐B ☐C ☒D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐A ☐B ☐C ☐D ☐E ☐F ☐G

Level of Significance: ☐national ☐state ☒local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

From 1766-present (1996) the St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church Cemetery has served as a burial ground for St. Aloysius Parish in Leonardtown. The land for the church and cemetery was donated to St. Aloysius Parish by Ann Thompson in 1766. A frame church, no longer visible, was constructed soon after. The church remained active until 1847 when the congregation constructed a new house of worship in Leonardtown.

While remains of the church are no longer visible, the cemetery has served as the final resting place for many Catholic families and individuals from the area from the 1780s to the present. The cemetery includes headstones from the Wathen, Duke, Camalier, Simms, Fenwick, King, Spalding, Swales, Conner, Cooper, and Young families. These headstones and family plots exhibit a significantly wide variety of iconography, craftsmanship, and materials. They range from finely shaped and finished stone to unmarked wooden crosses.

While perhaps not representative of all eighteenth century gravestones that once existed, the cemetery's three visible eighteenth century stones reveal much about life in the county during this timeperiod. The stones are typically small, roughly shaped, contain the initials of the deceased, a cross, and the year of their passing. These markers represent the crudest of memorials-simultaneously reflecting the relative lack of stone in the area and the dirth of craftsmen to elaborately shape and carve it.

Early and mid-nineteenth century markers reveal a much different reality. The Benedict Spalding family plot is the most prominent and decorated in the entire cemetery. Dating from 1854, the plot is surrounded by a cast iron fence that is ornamented with acorns, urns, roses, arrows, and other angular shapes. In contrast, the Cooper family plot contains a much more modest and austere cast iron fence dating from the late-nineteenth century. While different, these two family plots reflect regional trends in funerary art and practice--thus confirming St. Mary's County's connections to not only surrounding counties but also to the nation as well.

Finally, the cemetery contains a wide variety of modern headstones. Most notable are the military markers of veterens who served in World War I and II.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-57

Revised J. M. Johnson, S. J. Historical Summary of the Shrines, Churches, Chapels, and Homes of the Priests in St. Mary's County, Md, Since 1634.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.62 acresQuadrangle name LeonardtownQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Unknown. No deed reference was found at the Tax Assessors.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County, Planning and Zoning date October, 1996street & number 328 Washington Street telephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHOP:THCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-21
1-800-398-2700

PS-2746

SM-57, St. Aloysius R. C. Church Cemetery
St. Mary's County
Significance 8.1

No chain of title is included. Since the land for the church and cemetery was donated in the 1760s, no land records for the transaction could be found.

1900574208

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: St. Aloysius Cemetery				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Cemetery Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown				
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: St. Mary's	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: St. Mary's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street and Courthouse Drive				
CITY OR TOWN: Leonardtown			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE		
<p>The cemetery is very unkempt. One cast iron gate and fence of extreme interest are present.(c. 1853), as well as some interesting stones.</p>		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

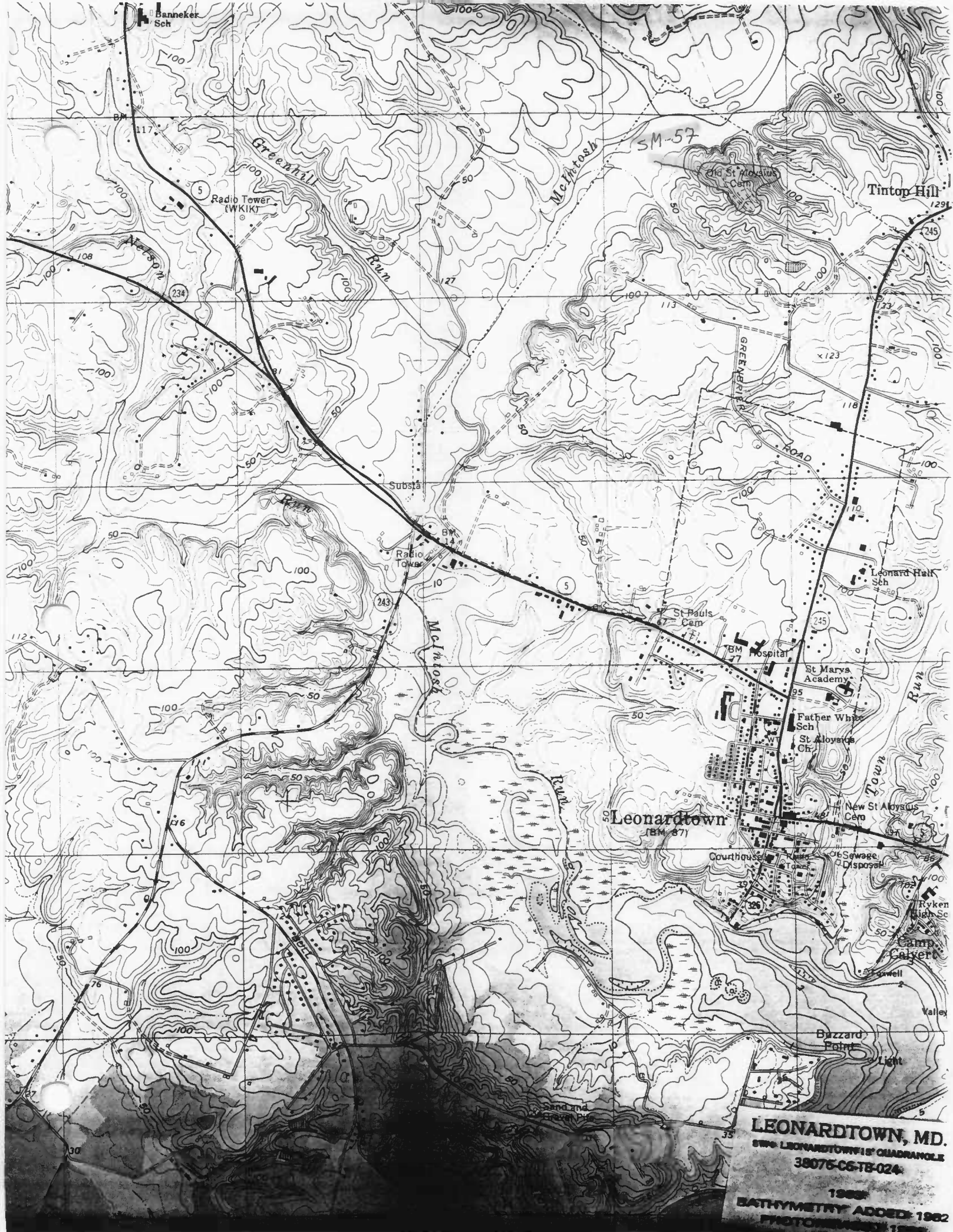
NAME AND TITLE: Michael O. Bourne	
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE 8/70
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE

12. Rev. 8/74 by R. B. White, summer intern, Md. Historical Trust
 State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____



LEONARDTOWN, MD.
SW: LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C6-TB-024
1983
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
PHOTOGRAPHED 1984



SM-57

St. Aloysius P.C. Church Cemetery

St. Mary's County, Md

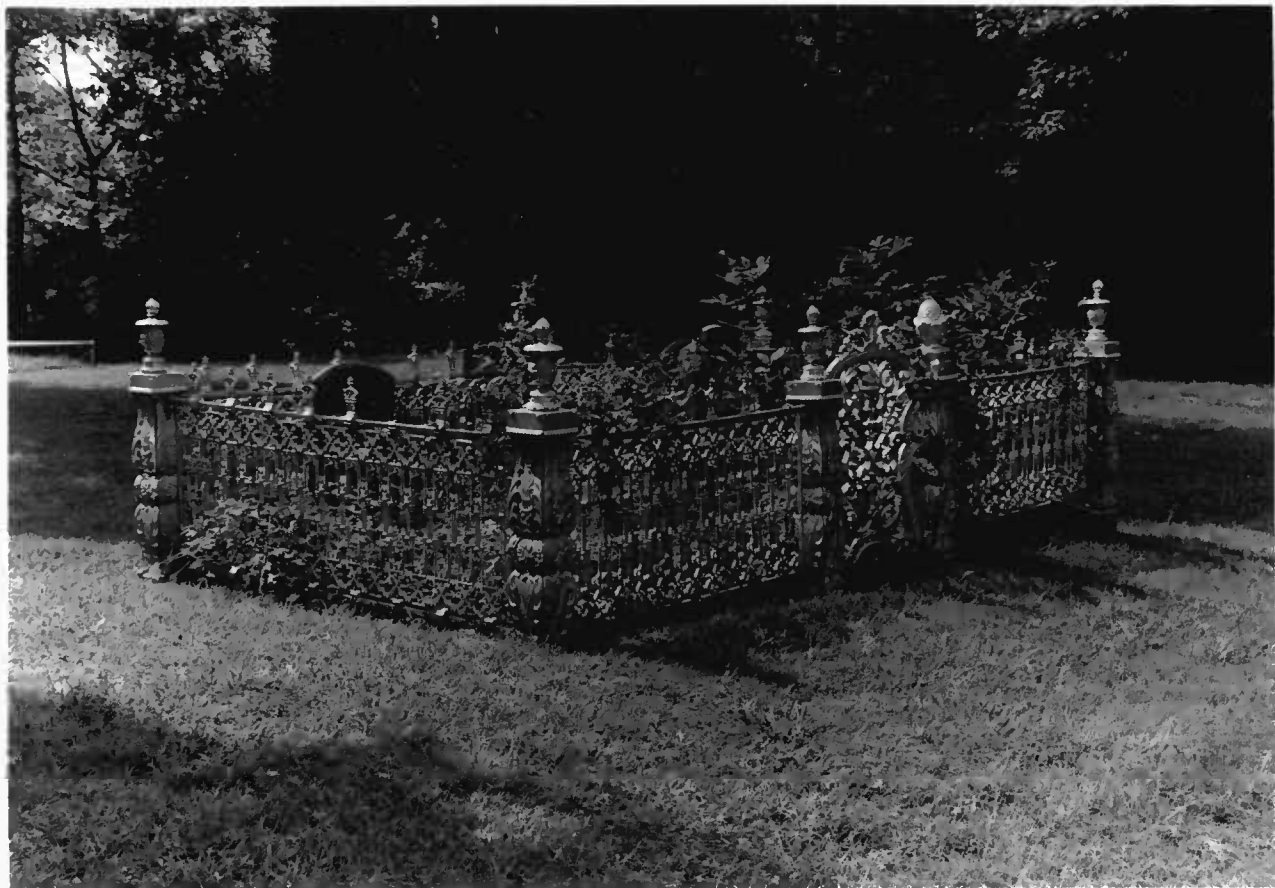
Kirk Panzetta

August 1986

Md SHPO

Environmental view looking north

1 of 8



SM - 27

St. Agatha R.C. Church Cemetery

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August 1996

Md SHPO

View of Benedict Spelling's family plot looking N

2 of 8



SM-57

St. Aloysius P. C. Church Community

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranetta

August, 1996

Md SHPO

Detail - Benedict Spalding's Co. 1st Lt

3 of 8



SM-37

St. Albans P.C. Church

St. Mary's County, Md.

Kirk Parvitta

August 1966

Md SHPS

Eighteenth century wood house

4 of 8



SM-59

St. Albans, Vt. Cemetery

St. Mary's Church, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August, 1976

md SH20

right hand & empty left hand

48



SM - 57

St. Aloysius R.C. Church Cemetery

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ransom

August 1978

MJ SHPO

voluntary contribution

6 of 8



SM-57

St. Aloysius P.C. Church Cemetery

St. Mary's Church, Md

Kirk Panzetta

August, 1996

Md SHPO

view of table rock + some of the looking N

7/8



SM-57

St. Agostine R.C. Church Cemetery

St. Agostine Cemetery, Md.

Kirk R. Smith

August 1916

Md. SHPD

unmarked wood cross looking E

7/2